

LA Patchwork 'This I Believe'

Have you ever experienced difficulties that you felt were insurmountable? Were you at a loss as to what to do and did you give up when the going got tough? Didn't you regret your decision after that? Well, the fact is that everyone experiences difficult times. Some may encounter financial difficulties, some may have to go through the pain of illness, and some face harsh scolding to rise up the ranks. However, only those with true grit, determination and will power will eventually succeed. My belief in life is that tough times don't last, tough men do.

In our daily lives, there will be many problems we will encounter. Some of them are easy to overcome while others take weeks, or even months, to resolve. When I was in primary school, I had a neighbour named Aunt Sue. She was a jovial lady who always had a smile on her face, and sometimes even gave my family home-baked cakes or treats. Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with cancer six years ago. I could see that Aunt Sue was in great pain as she fought a fierce battle with cancer. Despite this, she refused to wallow in self-pity and remained optimistic and as cheery as sunshine. She believed that she would get well one day, and she was right. After a gruelling period of chemotherapy, Aunt Sue finally went into remission. She has since moved away but we still keep in touch. Although it will take some time for her to regain her vivacious self, she has already lived through her toughest time.

Now, you must be wondering what arduous experiences I have had myself. Well, one of the greatest obstacles I have overcome is getting used to my co-curricular activity, St John Ambulance Brigade. Being a uniformed group, St John promotes strength, character and most importantly, discipline. At first, I was not used to the harsh scoldings and punishments from my domineering seniors. Every time their shouts pierced my ears, my heart would pound wildly in my chest as I held back tears that were welling in my eyes. What right did they have to scold me? Was I any less than them? I was also unaccustomed to the strenuous physical training and rigid foot drill sessions. The thought of quitting St John flashed through my mind countless times, but whenever my squad mates encouraged me with their kind words, I was determined to hang on. I learnt to steel myself when my seniors reprimanded us, and braved through thick and thin with my squad mates. In the twinkling of an eye, I have 'survived' two full years in St John. 22nd January 2011 will always hold a special place in my heart. I was promoted to Sergeant in the St John headquarters. When the rank was attached to my shoulder, my heart fluttered with pride. My perseverance had paid off.

Life is a road that we will have to keep going. But the road to success is never smooth. There will always be twists and turns, ups and downs. However, I believe that with the right attitude and rock-solid resolution, anyone can overcome the obstacles and pave the road to victory. Because tough times don't last, tough men do!